



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

MICHELLE H. SEAGULL | COMMISSIONER

Testimony of Michelle Seagull Commissioner of Consumer Protection

Appropriations Subcommittee on Regulation and Protection February 18, 2022

Senator Lesser, Senator Miner, Representative Nolan, Representative Hayes and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Regulation and Protection, good morning, I am Michelle Seagull, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Governor Lamont's proposed budget adjustments for DCP for the remainder biennium and to answer any questions you may have.

As you are aware, DCP's regulatory scope has grown over the last year with the enactment of Public Act 21-1, The Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis (RERACA), and Public Act 21-23, The Authorization, Licensing and Regulation of Online Casino Gaming, Retail and Online Sports Wagering, Fantasy Contests, Keno and Online Sale of Lottery Tickets. Since the passage of these two significant pieces of legislation last year, DCP has written gaming regulations and opened the expanded gaming market, and written Policies and Procedures for RERACA and is now accepting applications for various cannabis licenses.

At the same time, DCP continues to issue credentials for more the 200 types of jobs and businesses, oversee the manufacturing of food and beverages in our State, regulate gasoline

retailers, home heating fuel dealers, drug manufacturers, pharmacies and the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquor.

While DCP's scope has expanded, we haven't lost focus of our core mission, to protect public health and safety in the industries we regulate. We also continue to implement process improvements so that we can do more with fewer resources. Most notably over the last year, for the first time, we began emailing licenses to real estate brokers, appraisers and salespeople. By emailing the licenses to approximately 24,000 credential holders, the department saved an estimated \$35,000 from eliminating supply and postage costs. And the licensees like it because they get their certificate faster. This year, thanks to Public Act 21-197 we will move the more than 25,000 applications and renewals we process annually for Home Improvement Contractor and New Home Construction registrations entirely online.

The Governor's only proposed budget adjustment to DCP's budget for FY 23 is the result of the plan to centralize Executive Branch information technology (IT) functions to create efficiencies in our state government. We look forward to the additional IT support this will bring to DCP.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon. We look forward to continuing our work with the Governor, our sister agencies and all of you here in the Legislative Branch to achieve these goals. I am proud of the hard work of DCP's employees and happy to answer any questions you may have.